

**Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

**Senate Bill 383 An Act Increasing the Applicable Percentage of the Earned Income Tax Credit  
House Bill 5403 An Act Establishing a Child Tax Credit against the Personal Income Tax**

Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

My name is Travis Woodward, I am a resident of Hamden, and an engineer in the Connecticut Department of Transportation. I am also the president of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, a labor union representing over 23,000 state, municipal, board of education, active and retired, public and private sector workers. I offer the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 383 and House Bill 5403:

I am proud to work for a living and proud to be a state employee, but like anyone who works for a paycheck, it can be tough. We all work hard and take care of our families and try to be good neighbors. We do our best, but sometimes it feels like the deck has been stacked against us. It's not fair that working people pay a larger percentage of our income in state and local taxes than the ultra-wealthy. It's not fair that we contribute more of our income to fund schools, colleges and universities, infrastructure, healthcare programs, and other vital public services upon which we all depend. The rules are rigged in their favor of those who profit from others' work while not contributing their fair share. This is unsustainable. SB 383 and HB 5403 are a good beginning.

SB 383 and HB 5403 provide immediate and permanent relief to those who need it most. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are financial lifelines for low-income individuals and families. They reduce poverty for working individuals and families and prevent thousands more from being pushed into financial ruin. SB 383 and HB 5403 will reduce racial disparities, build financial security, and create economic opportunities. Taken together, they will allow working families to make ends meet, provide for their children and save for a rainy day. These are win-win proposals and I urge members of the Committee to give them your full support.

The 2022 state tax incidence study shows that the bottom 50% of earners contribute up to 26% of their income in taxes, but the top 1% contributes less than 7%. As hard as we try, working families like mine just can't get ahead. By contrast, the ultra-wealthy have done very well. Just since the beginning of the pandemic, Connecticut's 13 billionaires banked \$13.7 billion in additional wealth – adding on average \$1 billion each. Asking the ultra-wealthy to pay what they owe will cover the costs of providing relief to low- and middle-income taxpayers. It's more sustainable and equitable than relying on temporary budget surpluses and one-time federal pandemic funds.

The scale of Connecticut's inequality and the pandemic's economic devastation demands a bold response—people are suffering, and our state has a responsibility to meet their needs. Addressing the unfairness of Connecticut's tax code is a good first step in this process. I urge you to support SB 383 and HB 5403. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Travis Woodward  
President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001